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ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE
AND VIRGINIA ADVERTISER.
(FOR THE COUNTRY)
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Marriage Notices and Obituaries, exceeding five lines, will be charged for.
All communications of a personal character, will be charged for at the ordinary rates.
All communications must be accompanied by the names of the authors, and no communication can be returned.

LABOR SAVING IMPLEMENTS.

An interesting article from the pen of Col. Johnson, President of Randolph Macon College, upon the subject of farming in the West, has recently made its appearance in the Richmond Christian Advocate, and it contains so many reflections which may be profitable to the farmers of Virginia, at this time, that we transfer a portion of his observations to these columns, and hope our agricultural friends will profit by the information conveyed.

Of the extent to which machinery is employed in the operation of human labor, in the scene of its operations, Col. J. testifies in the following extract, which, from its practical interest, we give at some length:

"I have lately travelled extensively in Illinois, Iowa and Missouri, and will give you some account of what I saw. Landing at Dubuque, Iowa, I travelled out on the Dubuque and Sioux City railroad a hundred and forty miles, and there procuring a buggy, I travelled north nearly to the Minnesota line, and circled round in the west, and returned to the point where I left the railroad. Every depot that I passed was crowded with all kinds of agricultural machinery. Every farm I saw, no matter how humble the dwelling, had these labor-saving implements. I confess I never saw so much wheat and oats and corn, and so few people to raise it. There, men break up their land with strong teams, pulling at the same time two or three plows attached to the same beam, that run two or three furrows, and all operated by one man. When the land is broken up the farmer puts in his wheat with the seed, of which there are two kinds, one that drills the wheat and the other that sows it broadcast. The machine on the wheels and driven by two horses; the box is filled with wheat, and the farmer mounts on top of the box, and drives backwards and forwards till the whole field is seeded and covered. When he plants his corn he brings out his corn-planter, hitching two horses, puts his corn in the box, mounts the machine and goes ahead. It lays off the ground, drops the seed and covers it up. When the corn comes up he brings out his sulky plow—with its wheels nearly as large as the old fashioned sulky—beneath the axle of which is suspended four plows, which can be regulated to throw the dirt from or to the corn. The horses walk in the middle of the rows, the wheels straddle the corn-row, and in the early plowing two revolving soil wheels prevent all possibility of covering up the corn. When the corn gets strong so as to bear the dirt, these wheels are taken off, and the plows are made to till the corn. The driver has the means of regulating the depth of the plows, and by the means of a lever lifts the plows over rocks or other obstructions. All the plowing of corn after planting is done with the sulky plow. This plow enables one man with two horses to do the work of four men, four plows and four horses by the ordinary methods. The great saving is, that it absolutely dispenses with the labor of three men and two horses, and thereby saves their wages and feeding. This saving is enormous, and constitutes a great profit. In talking with a gentleman about this plow, said he, if we choose we can fasten an umbrella on the back of the seat, and one leg is about as efficient as a trove of men; and having driven my sulky all the week in the corn field, I can take off the plows on Saturday night, and ride to meeting in it on Sunday."

When the wheat and oats get ripe they are cut with the reaping machine, of which there are many patterns. There is the McCormick, Manny, Buckeye, Excelsior, and many others, which bear the name of the inventor. I saw various kinds used, and found that different inventions existed as to the value of the several inventions. The McCormick and Buckeye seemed to be most used along my route of travel. One leg is about as efficient as a trove of men; and having driven my sulky all the week in the corn field, I can take off the plows on Saturday night, and ride to meeting in it on Sunday."

"I saw a man standing on the machine to rake off the wheat. But it cut a very wide row. The Buckeye required two horses, and the driver threw off the wheat into bundles by simply manipulating a lever which he always held in his hand. For small farmers I would prefer the latter. Another reaper has recently been invented, which is drawn by two horses, and it is so arranged that two men stand on the machine and do all the binding. The machine throws the wheat into bundles ready for the binders, and it is found that two active men can bind all the machine cuts. I learned also that a still more important invention has been made recently—a machine that cuts off the heads of the wheat and leaves the straw standing in the field. This machine leaves the straw for manure to the next crop and saves the handling of the straw, which is immense labor, and more valuable as manure than anything else. In practice I found that 8 or 10 acres a day were cut by a reaper, and trial experiments show that twenty acres can be cut by some machines drawn by two horses. In all my journey I did not see or hear of the ordinary grain cradle, so common among us."

All grain in the West is cut by the mowing, drawn by two horses; it is raked by a machine pulled by one horse in shafts, and the rake is completely under the control of the driver. The rakes are drawn by the stacks by one horse on a very simple mechanical arrangement, and hoisted up by a machine, operated by horse power called a "stacker."

In the West grain is shipped north without bagging. All railroads have elevators, and it is loaded and unloaded from car to boat, and vice versa, by elevators, which are built in all the cities and towns of the West; that do a grain business. This arrangement, only compels the farmer to own sufficient bags to load one or two wagons, and in practice, if he resides near an elevator or depot, he can borrow as many as he needs. Dispensing with bags saves a large sum both to the farmer and consumer. These elevators are a beautiful mechanical contrivance, and will unload a car holding three hundred bushels in about four minutes. It costs two cents a bushel for wheat to go through the elevator.

All farmers own their own implements except the threshing; the price of this is beyond their means. Generally two or three men in a neighborhood will club together and buy a machine, and they will make it pay for itself in one season by doing all the threshing for the neighborhood. They charge five cents a bushel for threshing out wheat, and three cents for oats; always payable in money. The farmer furnishes one-half of the horses required to drive it.

The question with me was to ascertain what had been the saving to the Western farmer by the use of these improved agricultural machines. I asked an intelligent farmer of Illinois how many acres one man could cultivate in the usual crops of the West by the old methods, and he answered twenty acres. How many acres do you now cultivate with the improved machinery—all of which you have; and he answered promptly, with a little hating at breaking up time and at harvest, I can cultivate one hundred acres myself with my own labor. What a glorious result! A farm cultivated by the old methods with six hands, can by the use of improved implements be as well cultivated with one. You save the wages and feeding of five hands; you have the same product, no trouble or annoyance, and when you are done with your machine you put it under shelter—it costs nothing and requires no more attention."

We cannot wonder at the eulogium which President Johnson proceeds to conclude his account of the use of farm machinery in the West, and his earnest exhortations to the agriculturists of the South to profit by the example.

PROFESSIONAL.

DR. LOCKERMAN,
SURGEON DENTIST.
(Grad. of F.B.C. College of Dental Surgery, 1844)
No. 44, SOUTH WASHINGTON ST.
ALEXANDRIA, VA.
nov 20-4f

W. H. ROBERTS, DENTIST.
171, King st., Alexandria, Va.
Having had twelve years' experience in the practice of Dentistry, feels confident that he can give entire satisfaction in all cases. All operations guaranteed, and charges moderate. [oe 7]

JOHN F. POULTON, DENTIST.
Office and residence No. 12 S. St. Asaph st., ALEXANDRIA, VA.
All work guaranteed to give satisfaction. aug 7-4f

JAMES B. HODGKIN, DENTIST.
Office, Washington street, near King, (in rear of Milburn's Drug Store).
Teeth extracted without pain by a new, pleasant and safe method. Dental operations performed with care and fidelity. Particular attention devoted to artificial sets. sep 26

MERCHANT TAILORS.
WILLIAM MURRAY,
MERCHANT TAILOR,
No. 7, NORTH FAIRFAX STREET,
Has just received his
FALL AND WINTER ASSORTMENT OF
CLOTHES, CASSIMERES,
AND VESTINGS.
He invites his friends and customers to call and examine his stock. mar 29-4f

83 ARNOLD & FIELD, 83
MERCHANT TAILORS.
Have removed from No. 10, King street, and are now at No. 83, King street, and would be pleased to receive a call from their friends, or any one in want of a suit of good clothes. We have on hand and are receiving a good line of
CLOTHES, CASSIMERES, VESTINGS,
LINENS, &c.
which we will make to order, very low, for the next two months, especially.
We propose to continue our
GENTS' FURNISHING DEPARTMENT,
where you will always find the latest styles.
We will furnish
as cheap as they can be had at retail in Philadelphia. Warranted to fit and wear well. Call and see us, at No. 83, King st., 3 doors west of Royal. aug 1-4f

WILLIAM E. ATWELL,
FASHIONABLE TAILOR,
No. 161 King st., next to Milburn's Drug Store,
Would announce to his friends and the public that he is again prepared to attend to all orders for work in his line, in his usually satisfactory style. mar 16-4f

BANKERS.
JNO. W. BURKE, A. HERBERT, J. W. MAURY,
BURKE, HERBERT & CO.
OFFICE—CORNER KING & WATER STS.,
ALEXANDRIA, VA.
BUY AND SELL
UNCURRENT MONEY
GOLD AND SILVER COIN,
AND EXCHANGE.
BONDS AND STOCKS,
BOUGHT AND SOLD ON COMMISSION.
Sight Drafts, Checks, and Time Collections, promptly remitted for. [y 1-4f]

WILMER D. CORSE,
EXCHANGE BROKER,
OFFICE—No. 57, and 59 KING STREET,
WILL DEAL IN
EXCHANGE, GOLD & SILVER COIN,
AND UNCURRENT MONEY.
Bonds and Stocks bought and sold on commission.
Collections made on all accessible points in the United States, and proceeds promptly remitted. Int. Rev. Stamps for sale. [no 28-1y]

ALEXANDRIA STEAM DYING AND
CLOTH DRESSING ESTABLISHMENT, (established in 1843), at D. WAREHEAD, Proprietor.
Cleans and dyes all kinds of Ladies' Dresses, and all kinds of Gentlemen's Dresses, and all kinds of Gentlemen's Garments, of every description, Cleaned and Dyed in the very best manner. Gentlemen's Garments, of every description, Cleaned and Dyed, if necessary, in a style not to be surpassed by any establishment in the city. In a word all I ask is a trial. You can find me at all times at my establishment, No. 27, south Fairfax street, ready and willing to accommodate all who may desire my services. Goods carefully packed and forwarded to any part of the country. aug 30-3m

CRANBERRIES, received this day and for sale by
AVERY & DAVIDSON
226, King street, cor. Alfred
nov 11

BAKING-HAMS, Shoulders and Breakfast
Bacon, received to-day and for sale by
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Collections made on all accessible points in the United States, and proceeds promptly remitted. Int. Rev. Stamps for sale. [no 28-1y]

ALEXANDRIA STEAM DYING AND
CLOTH DRESSING ESTABLISHMENT, (established in 1843), at D. WAREHEAD, Proprietor.
Cleans and dyes all kinds of Ladies' Dresses, and all kinds of Gentlemen's Dresses, and all kinds of Gentlemen's Garments, of every description, Cleaned and Dyed in the very best manner. Gentlemen's Garments, of every description, Cleaned and Dyed, if necessary, in a style not to be surpassed by any establishment in the city. In a word all I ask is a trial. You can find me at all times at my establishment, No. 27, south Fairfax street, ready and willing to accommodate all who may desire my services. Goods carefully packed and forwarded to any part of the country. aug 30-3m

CRANBERRIES, received this day and for sale by
AVERY & DAVIDSON
226, King street, cor. Alfred
nov 11

BAKING-HAMS, Shoulders and Breakfast
Bacon, received to-day and for sale by
AVERY & DAVIDSON
226, King street, cor. Alfred
nov 8

W. H. BURKE, A. HERBERT, J. W. MAURY,
BURKE, HERBERT & CO.
OFFICE—CORNER KING & WATER STS.,
ALEXANDRIA, VA.
BUY AND SELL
UNCURRENT MONEY
GOLD AND SILVER COIN,
AND EXCHANGE.
BONDS AND STOCKS,
BOUGHT AND SOLD ON COMMISSION.
Sight Drafts, Checks, and Time Collections, promptly remitted for. [y 1-4f]

WILMER D. CORSE,
EXCHANGE BROKER,
OFFICE—No. 57, and 59 KING STREET,
WILL DEAL IN
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